

DIVERSITY AWARENESS MOVIES

Eye Of The Storm (ABC News) - (1970)

This best-selling program, produced by ABC News, was the first video to document Jane Elliott's courageous undertaking to help her third grade class understand the meaning of prejudice. Following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., her, all-white, all-Christian third grade class hungered to understand the significance Dr. King's mission. Living in the homogenous farming community of Riceville, Iowa, many of Ms. Elliott's students harbored subtle and not so subtle prejudices despite the fact that many of them had never even seen a black man before. So where did these prejudices come from? And, more importantly, how could she make them understand how arbitrary and unfair they were?

This video chronicles her, now famous, exercise where she divides her class based upon the color of their eyes and bestows upon one group privileges and on the other group impediments. Needless to say, her eye color exercise created quite a storm at the time. But her work endures to this day and this ABC video, nearly 35 years later, still has a great deal to teach us.

What's Cooking?

2000-UK/USA-Americana/Family Drama/Domestic Comedy

N.Y. Times Review by A. O. Scott

Kenyan-born, London-educated Indian filmmaker Gurinder Chadha follows up on her debut hit *Bhaji on the Beach* (1994) with this gentle look at multiculturalism in Los Angeles. The film details the lives of four ethnically diverse families -- black, Latino, Jewish, and Asian -- during one frantic Thanksgiving. The film opens with Ronald (Dennis Haysbert), an African-American who works as a spin doctor for the Republican politico; he and his wife Audrey (Alfre Woodard) are in the midst of preparing for their white dinner guests. Meanwhile, at the Latino household, young Anthony Avila (Douglas Spain) invites his womanizing father for Thanksgiving dinner, unbeknownst to his schoolteacher mother Elisabeth (Mercedes Ruehl). At the same time, the Seeling family is confronted with their daughter Rachel's (Kyra Sedwick) lesbianism, when she brings home her lover Carla (Julianna Margulies). Finally, Vietnamese immigrant Trinh Nguyen (Joan Chen) struggles to understand her Americanized children after she discovers condoms in her eldest daughter's jacket and a gun in her son's room. ~ Jonathan Crow, All Movie Guide

"Finding You in Me"

"Finding You in Me" was produced by members of the Eastside Boys & Girls Club's Keystone Club, a teen-focused program within the Club. It highlights diversity and tolerance issues that have emerged in the Twin Cities, using the Hmong community as its initial focus, while also examining issues in the local Latino community. Diana Adamson, Program Director for the Eastside Boys & Girls Club, will discuss the impetus for creating the film and answer questions.

The teens assisted in writing, directing and producing the documentary, with the support of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, local Club staff and technical assistance provided by Ed Heil of Storyteller Productions. The young documentary-makers interviewed young people and adults from around Saint Paul and attended a range of community events. One goal of the documentary

is to show how a diverse population makes our country stronger. The feedback from the film has been very positive.

For more information on the film, check out:
<http://www.bgca.org/news/20051116.asp>

Everyday people

HBO Films presents an Alphaville, Urban Romances, C-Hundred Film Corp. production; producers, Effie T. Brown, Paul Mezey ; written and directed by Jim McKay.

Description

The diverse ethnic population of New York City provides some food for thought in EVERYDAY PEOPLE. A Brooklyn diner called Raskin's forms the hub for much of the film's activity, and with its ability to draw a clientele of varied ethnicity, the popular restaurant creates a unique and vibrant atmosphere that is seldom matched across the United States . But when a neighborhood courts popularity, the double-headed threat of rent hikes and gentrification loom large. As the Jewish owner of Raskin's announces he's selling up to make way for condominiums and other establishments, it still comes as a shock to most of the regulars. Filmed to highlight a day in the life of the diner, director Jim McKay opens up a can of racial worms with this explosive drama, and neatly highlights some pertinent issues of class and ethnicity in contemporary society.

Guess who's coming to dinner

Columbia Pictures presents a Stanley Kramer production; produced and directed by Stanley Kramer.

Description

Spencer Tracy's last performance was in this well-meaning, handsome film by Stanley Kramer about a pair of white parents (Tracy and Katharine Hepburn) trying to make sense of their daughter's impending marriage to an African American doctor (Sidney Poitier). The film has been knocked over the years for padding conflict and stoking easy liberalism by making Poitier's character in every socioeconomic sense a good catch: But what if Kramer had made this stranger a factory worker? Would the audience still find it as easy to accept a mixed-race relationship? But there's no denying the drawing power of this movie, which gets most of its integrity from the stirring performances of Tracy and Hepburn. When the former (who had been so ill that the production could not get completion insurance) gives a speech toward the end about race, love, and much else, it's impossible not to be affected by the last great moment in a great actor's life and career. --Tom Keogh

This list is from a four volume collection of short documentaries from the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival.

Volume 1

The Laughing Club of India

Synopsis Portrait of the first laughing club in India, its founding by a doctor who believes that laughter is the best medicine, his outreach to schools, interviews with club members, scenes of outdoor sessions, and shots of billboards and street scenes in contemporary Mumbai. Club members gather, stretch, and start to laugh. Founder Dr. Madan Kararia talks of the club's history and the growth of laughing clubs across the country. Among those interviewed, there's a stockbroker, three bawdy women, a musician, a widow laughing to cope with grief, and two old men - friends since school days who meet daily to laugh. No form, no fuss: happiness equals health.

Why Can't We Be a Family Again?

Synopsis A portrait of a family preparing for a child welfare hearing in Brooklyn. Daniel and Raymond Jacobs have been in the care of their grandmother, Ursula, for seven years, because their mother Kitten is a drug addict. The filmmakers follow them during the period before the hearing: the boys, now in high school and middle school, voice their hopes for their mother's rehabilitation and for a normal life with her. Ursula talks about the responsibility she bears. Kitten enters a residential treatment program. Will she make it, and what choices does the court have?

Volume 2:

MISS ALABAMA NURSING HOME by Anne Paas

A documentary about beauty, aging, and going for the crown, this touching and uplifting film follows an 82-year-old beauty queen on her quest to become Ms. Alabama Nursing Home.

NUTRIA by Ted Gesing

Hilarious and irreverent, NUTRIA tells the story of the Argentine swamp rat that is both destroying the wetlands of Louisiana and rapidly becoming the region's latest culinary delicacy.

Volume 3:

ROSALIE'S JOURNEY by Warwick Thornton--The life of an Aboriginal woman takes an incredible and fascinating turn when she is plucked from obscurity to star in filmmaker Charles Chauvel's acclaimed 1955 film Jedda. (23 minutes)

FOXHOLE by Franko Galoso--All is fair in love and war in this film about the paths of two decorated soldiers whose lives take an unexpected turn after meeting on the battlefields of Vietnam. (26 minutes)

Volume 4:

IN THE SHADOW OF EDEN (by Rachael Romero) In this spellbinding and haunting film, filmmaker Rachel Romero comes to grips with the abuse she suffered at the hands of her religion-fixated father while growing up in rural Australia.

GOOD MORNING YOKOHAMA (by Satoshi Ono) A visually poetic and humorous meditation that captures rush hour in one Japanese city as a horde of workers funnel through turnstiles and jockey for their position aboard trains.

SMALL TOWN SECRETS (by Katherine Leggett) A poignant gem, filmmaker Katherine Leggett deftly weaves together home movies, photographs, phone conversations and web cam footage to tell this personal story of growing up with closeted gay parents in a small Midwestern town.

CHEEKS (by Tal Sharon and Daniel Barcelowsky) Meet Joe Cheek: folk musician, retro-fashion plate and dedicated son of two paranoid schizophrenic fundamentalists. Part Edgar Allen Poe, part David Lynch, CHEEKS draws on our gothic fascination with families in decay.

GOOD TIMES (by Alessandro Cassigoli & Dalia Castel) Winner of the 2005 Full Frame Jury Award for Best Short Film, GOOD TIMES traces the evolution of Israel's security wall that runs through the center of Abu Dis. Through candid interviews with Palestinian locals and Israeli soldiers, the film exposes the effect of the wall on their daily lives.